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1962/10/16

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

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EXCISE

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Action

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We assume shipping clauses in foreign aid appropriation bill (DEPTEL 508) will not effect any future PL-480 agreement as such sales would not be considered economic assistance.

Four point action re Cuban shipping may, however, have serious consequences for PL-480. Facts re Polish, Cuban shipping as know them follow.

The Polish vessels BALTYK, BIALYSTOK, KOPALNIA WUJEK, NARWIK and WYSPANSKI are known to have carried cargo to Cuba. In addition newspaper DZIENNIK BALTYCKI March 6, 1962 reported opening of a regular line between Poland and Cuba using 11 ships. Newspaper GLOS SZEZECINSKI April 30, 1962 also reported this line and indicated the use of five Polish ships. Information re cargo is sketchy but possibility transport Czech arms cannot be excluded.

In addition Poland has already delivered two fishing trawlers to Cuba and is building four merchant ships Sierra Maestra (completed), Commandant Farjaro, Aracelio Iglicia and Camilio Cienfuego. Earlier reports indicated these ships being built East Germany but weight evidence now indicates construction in Poland.

It will of course be difficult to know whether Polish ships are carrying arms to Cuba. [However if we have evidence that they are, we assume that under point one of TOPOL 457 all] ships

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-2- 731, October 16, 1 p.m. from Warsaw

(S) [ships of Polish registry would be barred from US ports. It seems likely if this occurs that all US ships will be barred from Polish ports. This would of course further disrupt trade between Poland and US and further put out relations on descending spiral.

Embassy would appreciate Department's comments re this analysis of probable effects on Polish aid and trade of executive order implementating four point Cuban shipping regulations.]

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